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to preserve the English distinction between barristers and solicitors been successful the history of the American Bar would have been very different.

A. M. K.

LEGAL PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION. By Henry Bixby Hemenway. T. H. Flood and Co., 214 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. 1914. pp. xxxvi, 859. \$7.50.

Dr. Hemenway in his work on Public Health presents the problems which confront those interested in public health administration, and after reviewing the fundamental principles involved, offers some excellent solutions. The main difficulty which he points out is the drafting of health provisions which meet the public needs and are at the same time constitutional. Physicians who understand the needs of the community are ordinarily unable to frame laws which meet with the approval of the courts, whereas lawyers are so blinded by the legal side of the question that their measures accomplish but little public good when enacted. This same difficulty, however, is encountered in all branches of legislation, and will undoubtedly remain a stumbling block until proposed laws are drafted by a bureau of trained experts.

Dr. Hemenway sets forth our basic principles of government and constitutional law in a clear and concise manner and shows their relation to public health administration. His work may be read understandingly by members both of the legal and medical professions as he has confined his technical terms principally to the table of contents. It should prove of great value to those who, without Dr. Hemenway's intimate knowledge of the two professions, are interested in that new field of public endeavor—health reform.

E. J. S.

ETHICS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION. By Orrin N. Carter. Northwestern University Press, Northwestern University Building, Chicago. 1915. pp. xxiv, 116. \$1.50.

The term "legal ethics" is misleading, in that it implies that there are certain moral obligations imposed on the lawyer, differing from those resting on the community at large, whereas ethical standards are the same for every trade, business, and profession. That a lawyer should observe an oral stipulation is not a precept of legal ethics, it is merely an example of the general duty to keep promises. In many situations the conflict is not squarely presented between right and wrong. The difficulty is in determining what is right. General advice that fees should be moderate, that lawyers should not represent conflicting interests, etc., is of no assistance in determining what is a proper fee, or what interests are conflicting, where a difficult case is presented. A study of the actual problems, passed on by the Legal Ethics Committee of the New York City Bar Association, may in time establish rules in some of these perplexing cases. Taking away the general principles of moral

conduct, and the special duties required of the legal profession by law, there are left those usages of courtesy and good form which should govern lawyers in their relations with their clients, the profession, and the court, but these observances, like ethical conduct in general, cannot be reduced to rule and a penalty provided for each breach, without destroying their distinctive character. As the author points out, the penalty for non-observance must come from public opinion and particularly from the public opinion of the legal profession. The difficulty, however, is that in our large cities, where the profession is recruited from every section of the country, with lax requirements of legal and general education, and without the personal knowledge of the applicant requisite to determine his moral qualifications, and where the members of the Bar do not know the applicants newly admitted each year, nor do they know the majority of their fellow practitioners, there can be no effective public opinion in the profession, as in the countries of Europe, where the lawyers are nearly all educated in the same place, under the guidance of the Bench and Bar. One who there violates the unwritten law of the profession can hardly expect to practice successfully. Without an effective public opinion the standards of the profession inevitably tend to sink to the level of mere legality, the sole effort being to "keep within the law." If careful selection and training of candidates for admission to the Bar fail to inculcate professional ideals, exhortation to do right cannot be expected to supply a force sufficient to withstand the pressure of the temptations arising in practice. The prime service of this book, by the distinguished Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois, lies in the wealth of material to which reference is made, and the stimulus to learn more of the history and traditions of the profession. There is also a concise but accurate and practical statement of the matters usually included in such works, entirely free from the disgusting platitudes and cant with which is filled so much that is written upon this subject. It would be a misfortune, however, if this admirable book should perpetuate the delusion entertained by so many, that the ethical standards of the Bar can be materially raised by prescribed reading or by a course of lectures on legal ethics.

A. M. K.

PRINCIPLES OF COMPANY LAW. By Alfred F. Topham. Fourth edition. Butterworth and Co. (Canada) Ltd., 191 Hargrave St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. 1914. pp. xl, 376. \$1.50.

This is primarily a student's book, and as such gives a clear idea of the leading principles of English Company Law under the Companies Act. The most important sections of the statute are well annotated with concise statements of the leading cases. This feature of the book gives it value to the American lawyer.

M. C. L.